

Remarks

The Official Action rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 12, 13, 15-17 and 19-22 and objected to claims 2, 3, 6, 11, 14, 18, 23, 24, 26 and 27. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 11-15, 19, 21, 23 and 26 and canceled claims 17, 18 and 22. Claims 1-16, 19-21, 23-24, and 26-27 are now pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in the light of the points that follow.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 2, 3, 6, 11, 14, 18, 23-24 and 26-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has elected to rewrite claims 6, 11, 14 and 23 in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant's intention is to merely place claims 6, 11, 14 and 23 in independent form and not to narrow the scope of such claims beyond the scope as originally filed.

Claim Rejections – Under 35 USC § 112

The Official Action rejected claims 5-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 5 and 6

Applicant respectfully indicates that claim 5 includes claim 4 as a base claim while claim 4 includes claim 6 as a base claim. Applicant has amended claim 6 in independent form and amended claim 6 includes a limitation of "a physical connection", thus providing antecedent basis for "said physical connection" of claim 5 and "the physical connection" of claim 6. Applicant respectfully requests the present rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 11

Applicant amends claim 11 to include the end period. Applicant respectfully requests the present rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – Under 35 USC § 102 (Dally)

The Official Action rejected claims 7-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dally et al. (U.S.6,563,831). Applicant has amended claims 7, 8 and 12 to depend from allowable claim 11. Claims 9 and 10 include allowable claim 11 as a base claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the present rejection of be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – Under 35 USC § 103 (Kim)

The Official Action rejected claims 1, 4, 17 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Kim, Deog-Nyoun (U.S.5,999,534). Applicant has amended claims 1 and 4 to depend from allowable claim 6. Applicant has canceled claims 17

and 22. Applicant has amended claim 21 to depend from allowable claim 23.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present rejection of be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – Under 35 USC § 103 (Kim/Joseph)

The Official Action rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Kim, Deog-Nyoun (U.S.5,999,534) in view of Joseph et al. (U.S.6,628,615). Claim 5 includes allowable claim 6 as a base claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the present rejection of be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – Under 35 USC § 103 (Kim/Dally)

The Official Action rejected claims 13, 15-16 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Kim in view of Dally. Applicant has amended claims 13, 15 and 19 to depend from allowable claim 14 and 6, respectively. Claims 16 and 20 include allowable claim 14 and 6 as a base claim, respectively. Applicant respectfully requests that the present rejection of be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action. Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested, and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666. If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (503) 439-8778 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Gregory D. Caldwell/
Gregory D. Caldwell
Reg. No. 39,926

Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, LLP
1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040
(503) 439-8778